

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-29 and 31-45 were pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 21, 30, and 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 20, 22-29, 31-37, 41, and 43-45 have been amended. Claim 42 has been allowed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claim 42. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 42 in the Office Action. Therefore, the following remarks are directed to only the remaining claims.

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,989; hereinafter “James”) in view of Tomizawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,082; hereinafter “Tomizawa”), and further in view of Williams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,480; hereinafter “Williams”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 20 as amended depend from the allowed claim 42, and thus, claim 20 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reason discussed in the prior response with respect to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 22-25, 27-29, 31-35, 37, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Christiansen, and PCI Local Bus Specification (hereinafter PCI Spec), and further in view of Tomizawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claims 22-25, 27-29, 31-35, 37, and 41 as amended depend, directly or indirectly, from the allowed claim 42, and thus, claims 22-25, 27-29, 31-35, 37, and 41 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reason discussed in the prior response with respect to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

James in view of Christiansen and PCI Spec, further in view of Tomizawa and Desyllas.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 26 as amended depend from the allowed claim 42, and thus, claim 26 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reason discussed in the prior response with respect to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Christiansen and PCI Spec, further in view of Tomizawa and Hartmann. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 36 as amended depend from the allowed claim 42, and thus, claim 36 is patentable over the cited references for at least the reason discussed in the prior response with respect to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin et al. (U.S. 6,275,885; hereinafter “Chin”) in view of Williams et al. (U.S. 6,167,480; hereinafter, “Williams”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 43-45 as amended depend, directly or indirectly, from the allowed claim 42, and thus, claims 43-45 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reason discussed in the prior response with respect to claim 42. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

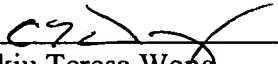
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that claims 20, 22-29, 31-37, 41, and 43-45 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

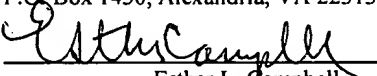
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